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International drug control

Letter dated 29 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the information regarding the measures being taken by the Republic of Uzbekistan to fight against the illicit flow of drugs (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

07-41522 (E) 100707 120707

Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Information on measures undertaken by the Republic of Uzbekistan to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs

As the initiator of the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) to combat transnational crime connected with illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs in the region, the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with the other Central Asian States, is playing an active role in international and regional efforts against drugs.

Uzbekistan is implementing a comprehensive State programme to combat illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, and its Government has adopted a number of targeted laws and decisions. Its law enforcement agencies are making active efforts to prevent and detect drug-related crime.

As a signatory to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Uzbekistan attaches great importance to careful fulfilment of the international commitments it has assumed in this field.

Tashkent hosts the Regional Office for Central Asia of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Uzbekistan also works closely with other leading international organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Customs Organization, Interpol and the European Union, as well as with foreign countries, to combat drug production and smuggling.

A series of United Nations and European Union programmes and subregional projects are in the process of implementation in Uzbekistan. They are aimed at assisting the countries of the region and harmonizing the joint efforts of law enforcement agencies, exchanging experience and establishing effective programmes to prevent and combat the growing problem of drug abuse.

In order to counteract the expansion of the drug problem, the law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan have undertaken special comprehensive operations to detect and halt the illegal activities of transnational drugs rings, to interrupt smuggling channels, to eradicate cultivation of drugs and to combat the spread of drug addiction.

In 2006, the law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan uncovered 8,834 drug crimes. In that connection, crimes connected with the sale of narcotics numbered 4,674; those connected with smuggling numbered 242; and other crimes numbered 3,915.

Of the 1,792.2 kilograms of drugs removed from illegal circulation, 537.24 kilograms were heroin; 759.3 kilograms were opium; 428.7 kilograms were marijuana; 5.8 kilograms were hashish and 61.3 kilograms were kok-nar (poppy straw).

The number of individuals arrested for drug-related crimes in Uzbekistan was 6,040, including 106 foreign nationals from 10 countries. The amount of narcotics seized from these individuals was 245.8 kilograms.

Operation "Opium-2007" is currently under way in Uzbekistan, marking a stepping-up of the fight against crime associated with the illicit importation, preparation and use of narcotics.

In accordance with established practice, following the entry into force of a court sentence, narcotics produced as material evidence in a criminal case are incinerated in dedicated furnaces by members of the State Commission with the participation of representatives of all the law enforcement and judicial bodies, civil society, the media and international organizations, including the United Nations.

Since 1994, Uzbekistan has destroyed around 40 tons of narcotics seized by the law enforcement agencies in the course of combating the drug trade.

The spread of drug addiction and primary counter-measures are priorities for the State Commission for Narcotics Control, the National Information and Analysis Centre for Narcotics Control of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

A psychoactive substance abuse monitoring centre has been established within the Ministry of Health and provided with the necessary technology.

Particular attention has been paid to comprehensive measures to prevent drug addiction and to the rehabilitation aspect of the system of narcotics-related assistance.

The following United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) projects are being implemented: AB/RER/04/H36, Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Policy Advice to the Central Asian Governments, and AB/RER/02/F75, Diversification of HIV prevention and drug treatment services for injecting and other drug users in Central Asia.

The distinguishing features of effective contemporary drug-related assistance for the population are a humanistic bias; cooperation with various ministries, departments, State and civil-society organizations; and accessible diagnostic and treatment services.

Fulfilling its international obligations in the field of narcotics control, Uzbekistan is a participant in the implementation of 11 UNODC international technical cooperation projects.

There is provision for regular exchanges of information with the coordinating structures for narcotics control in the Central Asian States and in Russia regarding the drug situation and individuals arrested for drug-related crimes in the countries concerned.